FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 MAY 1987

## Iran

*UK Diplomat Kidnapping* — Edward Chaplin, first secretary of the British interests section at the Swedish Embassy, was kidnapped in Tehran, London Press Association reported. He was driving his own car on an urban street when another vehicle forced him to stop and a group of armed men seized him. The British Foreign Office summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires, while British diplomats in Tehran were trying to arrange a meeting with senior Iranian officials. According to AFP, the FRG ambassador to Iran witnessed the kidnapping and believes the abductors are members of an Islamic revolutionary committee. Sources in Tehran cited by the agency speculated that the kidnapping could be linked to a shoplifting case against an Iranian diplomat in Manchester. While neither Tehran radio nor IRNA has yet been observed to refer to the kidnapping, a 29 May IRNA report noted that Iran has "strongly" protested the "illegal arrest" 2 weeks ago of an Iranian diplomat in Manchester, and the British Government has not presented any "justification" for the incident.

*Khamene'i on Reagan Remarks* — "Be careful and do not disgrace the American nation with your foolish policies," President 'Ali Khamene'i told President Reagan in an 'Id al-Fitr sermon reported by Tehran radio. Khamene'i said Reagan had described Iran as "an uncivilized nation" but said he did not want to "retaliate" and "insult the American nation." The U.S. Administration wants to show its strength after suffering "consecutive insults" in the Gulf, he asserted. Let the world and Reagan know that Iran is determined to defend itself and will inflict blows "wherever it deems necessary," he warned. Later, in a meeting with the visiting Cuban foreign minister reported by IRNA, Khamene'i expressed confidence that the United States would retreat "with humiliation and disgrace" from the hostile position it has taken.

*Turkish Press Row* — It is "out of the question" for Turkey to beg Iran's pardon for a magazine article about Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the Turkish foreign minister said in remarks cited by *Anatolia*. He added that the Turkish authorities had nothing to do with the publication about which Iran had lodged an official complaint. In continuing developments, the Turkish Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador after an Iranian daily published an "ugly" article about Ataturk, according to *Anatolia*.

## Israel

*Interception of Lebanese Plane* — A Lebanese Air Force training aircraft was intercepted by Israeli warplanes 28 May and forced to land in Israel, Beirut radio reported. The interception occurred when the Lebanese Fouga Magister arrived over the Mediterranean west of Sidon in response to a distress signal from a boat that was in danger of sinking. The plane was prevented from carrying out its rescue mission, but the Israeli authorities subsequently allowed it to return to Halat air base, the radio noted. The IDF spokesman acknowledged the incident in a statement cited by IDF radio, indicating that the Fouga was intercepted because it had been detected flying on a north-south path toward the Israeli border.

*Pollard Affair* — At a Labor Party meeting reported by Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sharply criticized MK Abba Eban for his handling of the investigation into the Pollard affair. Eban declared that he will not submit to party pressure on the issue, but an "incensed" Peres "blasted" Eban for conducting a "melodramatic" appeal.

*Nafsu Case* — The attorney general has authorized a police investigation into charges that Shin Bet personnel gave false evidence to the military court that tried Lieutenant 'Izzat Nafsu, Jerusalem radio reported.

## Libya

*Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks* — In a lecture to university students broadcast by Tripoli television 27 May, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi acknowledged the success of "anti-Arab Western colonialist propaganda" in Chad and other parts of Africa. Such propaganda has persuaded Chadians to hate Libyans and regard them as colonialists, he said, while Chadians do not hate the "real" colonialists from Europe and the United States. Al-Qadhdhafi also said Western talk about Libya possessing missiles that can reach southern Europe indicates the desire of "imperialist powers" to occupy the southern Mediterranean coastline. He stressed that claims about the range of Libyan missiles are exaggerated, adding that while a Libyan missile may cover 100 km, "they say that it can travel over a distance of 1,000 km" in order to "magnify the ugly picture" of Libya depicted in the West.

*Relations With USSR* — Libyan and Soviet officials signed the minutes of a bilateral agreement on technical, economic, and scientific cooperation 28 May, Tripoli radio reported, noting that visiting Soviet official Konstantin Katushev signed for the USSR. In Moscow, TASS disclosed that a Soviet naval squadron will visit Tripoli 2-5 June.

## Maghreb

Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on the occasion of the 1 June victory day pardoned 13 people recently convicted of belonging to the illegal Tunisian Socialist Federation and 198 others, TAP announced.

In Morocco a royal pardon on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr released 422 prisoners and lightened the sentences of more than 100 others, Rabat radio reported.

**Afghanistan**

The Revolutionary Council will shortly publish a decree that fixes the limit of land ownership in the DRA at 50 acres of first class land or its equivalent, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah disclosed in an 'Id al-Fitr speech carried by Kabul radio. Peasants will be allowed to keep land they received in the post-1978 land reform, though they will not be able to sell or otherwise dispose of land received from the state.

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## Foreign Minister Wakil Ends East Europe Visit

### Meets With USSR's Shevardnadze

*LD272054 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
*1600 GMT 27 May 87*

[Text] While on his way home from friendly and official visits to the CSSR, the People's Republic of Poland, and the People's Republic of Bulgaria Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of foreign affairs, met with Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, yesterday morning.

During the meeting Comrade 'Abdol Wakil informed Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze about the progress of the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan. Comrade 'Abdol Wakil also provided Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze with information about the consolidation and further expansion of relations between the DRA and other countries, as well as the increasing international support in light of the national reconciliation policy now taking place in the country and efforts for the political solution of events around Afghanistan.

Comrade Shevardnadze emphasized that the Soviet Union is prepared to continue giving every assistance and necessary support to the DRA in its efforts to stop bloodshed and for its socioeconomic development.

### Returns Home 28 May

*LD281740 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
*1600 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of foreign affairs, returned home this morning following a visit to the CSSR, the People's Republic of Poland, and the People's Republic of Bulgaria at the invitation of these nations' foreign ministers.

At Kabul Airport Comrade 'Abdol Wakil and his accompanying delegation were welcomed by Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of communications; deputy ministers; the head of protocol; and several department heads at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was also welcomed by Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador and extraordinary representative to the DRA, and ambassadors of the friendly countries.

## Najibullah, Officials Attend 'Id al-Fitr Prayers

*LD282046 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
*1600 GMT 28 May 87*

[Excerpt] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council and the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council; Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; and other party and government leaders performed the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr prayers in the grand Id'giah Mosque at 0900 this morning. Also attending the prayers were thousands of the religious and Muslim citizens of Kabul and its surroundings. They asked Almighty God for the victory of the people and the blossoming of our historic and free country.

The 'Id prayer performed in the Id'giah Mosque and led by Qari Mohammad Omar was also attended by members of the Politburo and the PDPA Central Committee Secretariat, members of the PDPA Central Committee, vice presidents of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, members of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, the chairman and vice chairman of the National Front, the president and members of the Supreme Court, the chairman and members of the National Reconciliation Commission, officers and senior generals of the Armed Forces, high-ranking government officials, staff members of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment and the High Council of Ulema and Clergy, the well-known Pashtun personality Ajmal Khatak, and Koran reciters from the Islamic countries now in Kabul for the international Koran recitation competition.

BIA reports that the party and government leaders and the other worshippers offered prayers and asked Almighty God to restore peace and calm in our beloved homeland in light of the national reconciliation's humane objectives of ending war, bloodshed, discord,and fratricide in our country. [passage omitted]

### Najibullah's 'Id al-Fitr Speech

*LD282136 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
*1630 GMT 28 May 87*

[Speech by Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, date and place not specified — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compasionate. Dear compatriots, sisters, and brothers.

Our people become enthusiastic on the eve of each 'Id. This enthusiasim has its own meaning and philosophy. The philosophy behind 'Id al-Fitr is that the world's Muslims, facing Almighty God after a month of fasting and mortification, celebrate their achievement. [passage omitted]

During the month of Ramadan a conference of religious leaders and an assembly of ulema and religious leaders were held. I say with regret that these holy days and spring days of Muslims were changed into days of mourning as a result of the deeds perpetrated by non-Muslim elements and the enemies of religion. They attacked Kherqa-e Mobarak [cloak of the prophet Muhammad], which is located in Qandahar by God's wish. These so-called mojahedin on the path of Islam killed the true servants of Almighty God. They martyred the imam of the mosque of Kherqa-e Mobarak. They have martyred theologains in Nangarhar, Konar, and Herat. These incidents cause sadness to all Muslims. Recently, 50,000 Muslims marched in Kabul city streets and shouting they will safeguard the Kherq-e Mobarak as they have done up to now. And we will be honest Muslims as we were, as we are now, and as we will continue to be.

This proves once again that historic and Muslim Afghanistan will remain the common home of all honest and toiling Muslims. [passage omitted]

Our brave, religious, and toiling compatriots fasted during the month of Ramadan and celebrate the holy days of 'Id al-Fitr at a time when the humane national reconciliation policy has been declared, as desired by God. [passage omitted]

The obvious meaning of our party and state national reconciliation policy is to end the war and in the future to build a developed and peaceful Afghanistan using the strong hands of the nation's true sons. The wish to build such an Afghanistan is in the hearts of each one of us. This is not just a wish; it also has a practical side.

When we declared the national reconciliation policy and took the first steps in Jadi, the policy at that time was like an unopened flower. We were only sowing seeds in those days. Today, under this warm sun, we collect the very first fruits of this policy. Today, there are 1,860 national reconciliation commissions. Roughly 50,000 emigres have returned home, 5,600 prisoners have been released, more than 1,000 villages have been liberated, and more than 20,000 armed men came over to the side of the state. [passage omitted]

The 'Id al-Fitr has come. These happy days and nights give an opportunity to all our compatriots, particularly the angry ones, to forget their bitter hatred and complaints and to act together with feelings of compromise and fraternity and with an Afghan and Islamic spirit. The characteristic of a people with culture and under the instruction of God is to welcome with great pleasure this great happiness. The people, our party, and the state welcome with great pleasure those compatriots who now return to their beautiful country, the DRA, to begin anew a common life with their compatriots in a spirit of fraternity.

We call on those who fight against us, our brothers, to return because the dimension of a common life is broad. These compatriots can sow and cultivate the lands together with this country's peasant masses. They can take part in the construction of roads and bridges. They can accelerate the work in factories and businesses even more.

During the days of 'Id everyone wears new clothes. In the great home of our people, Afghanistan, new things have been created. National reconciliation means new life and renovation, and is formed on the basis of Islam, justice, and humanity.

Of prime importance to all is the Revolutionary Council's decree on land and water. What do land and water mean for a Muslim? They mean life! The party and state strive to make this life clean and bright. The Revolutionary Council has approved a decree based on the April Revolution's gains on land and water reform in the interest of landless peasants and smallholders, according to the people's tradition and Islamic principles. Also considered are the rights of all landowners, of the landless peasants, and smallholders and agricultural workers. I will read a few articles from this decree:

Those lands distributed to the landless peasants and smallholders during the years of revolution in the course of land and water reform — if they work on these lands today — will remain their property.

The limit of land ownership in the DRA has been fixed at 50 acres of first-class land or its equivalent, with an exception to this contained in a seperate decree.

In order to boost agricultural yield and increase the fruits of the land, the previous lands and the lands which are being newly irrigated belong to the state and private ownership. [sentence as heard] They will be extended to create private and various mechanized farms without reducing their areas. These farms will be allowed to lease land and employ agricultural workers on the condition they sell their surplus production to the state according to a contract.

Peasants receiving land from the state will be allowed to extend their landownership up to 50 acres by purchasing land from private owners.

The right to sell, purchase, give, and to lease land is given to all the categories who have land with the exception of those who have received land from the state in the course of the land and water reforms.

Land and water relations will be organized by state bodies based on principles of justice and democracy, and the opinion of national reconciliation commissions will be considered. This decree will be published very soon.

We congratulate all the peasants during these days of 'Id on the just decision on land and water.

At a time when our compatriots celebrate the arrival of 'Id al-Fitr, they do not even for a moment at this happy and festive time forget the Muslims of the world, the dear Pashtuns and Baluchis and Muslims of the region — particularly the Muslims of the Sovict Union, Iran, Pakistan, India, China — and the people of all the neighboring countries. The people always want life in a climate of fraternity and good-neighborliness.

Dear sisters, brothers, and compatriots. While I am congratulating you on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, once again I wish that your handshaking and embracing will be a message of fraternity and peace. For we have previously raised this slogan for our compatriots and for the world: Peace for each home, peace for Afghanistan.

### Gandhi Discusses Sri Lanka With Tamil Nadu Chief

*BK280856 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0830 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, security forces are reported to be encountering stiff resistence on the 3d day of their offensive today against Tamil militants. The national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said 80 militants have so far been killed in government's biggest operation in Jaffna peninsula. He said there were several exchanges of fire at Velvettiturai in the northeast of Jaffna Peninsula before troops overran it. Heavy fighting was also reported from the south of the peninsula above Elephant Pass.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, today called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and discussed the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka. The meeting lasted about an hour. Mr Ramachandran expressed concern over the massive assault launched by the Sri Lankan security forces on the entire civilian population of Jaffna.

#### Calls For Restraint

*BK281558 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the international community to impress upon Sri Lanka the need for restraint in pursuing the military option to solve the ethnic issue. In a statement in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi referred to the present military offensive in the Jaffna Province and said violence had already claimed thousands of lives. The death toll will quickly raise as defenseless civilians are strafed from air and repeatedly and systematically subjected to bombing. Mr Gandhi said the Sri Lankan authorities know and acknowledge this, but they justify the massacre of unarmed civilians.

### Afghan Minister on Promoting 'Balanced' Trade

*BK281630 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] India and Afghanistan are to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. The minister of state for commerce, Mr P.R. Dasmunshi, told the visiting Afghan minister for transport, Mr Sher Jan Mazduryar, in New Delhi that India is in the position to meet Afghanistan's requirements, particularly in basic drugs, machine tools, allied engineering products, and vehicles. The Afghan minister said his country is keen to promote balanced bilateral trade.

### Meerut Returning to Normal; Delhi Peaceful

*BK290323 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0240 GMT 29 May 87*

[Text] In Meerut city the situation is fast returning to normal inthe curfew-bound areas. Curfew is being relaxed from 2 to 8 hours in phases in different localities today. A police spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent this morning that no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere during the last 4 days. He said contingents of police and paramilitary forces are patrolling, and a strict vigil is being kept on the situation. The district administration is now concentrating on relief and cleaning operations in the affected areas.

In Delhi, curfew has been relaxed from 0500 to 0900 [2330-0330 GMT] this morning in the Walled City. According to police sources, no untoward incident has been reported and the situation is peaceful.

## Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab State

#### 21 'Terrorists' Arrested 28 May

*BK281624 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] The Punjab police today arrested 21 terrorists belonging to four extremist gangs in Amritsar. The district police chief, Mr Mohammad Alam, told newsmen that a large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

The Border Security Force arrested four terrorists and killed another in encounter in Punjab yesterday. A self-styled general Mastan Singh alias Mastana was killed in an encounter near (Aliwal) under the Batala police station. He was involved in several killings.

#### Special Search Operation Launched

*BK290310 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0240 GMT 29 May 87*

[Text] In Punjab, the police and paramilitary forces have launched a special combing operation to dig out terrorists in Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District since last night.

The state police chief, Mr Ribeiro, told our Chandigarh correspondent this morning that an additional five companies of Central Reserve Police Force have been inducted in the area for this purpose.

### Gurkha Separatist Movement Leader Arrested

*BK281628 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] In West Bengal, the Darjeeling police have arrested Mr (Shernath Kharja), regarded as number two man in GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] movement. In a surprise move this evening police intercepted the vehicle in which he was travelling. Mr. (Kharja) opened fire on the police but he was ultimately overpowered and taken into custody. Incriminating documents, cassette tapes, some weapons, and a few bombs were seized from the vehicle. Mr (Kharja) was wanted by the police in several murder cases.

## SRI LANKA

### Further Reportage on Attack on Tamil Strongholds

#### Security Minister on Successes

*BK281551 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1540 GMT 28 May 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Sri Lankan Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the Velvettiturai area in the Jaffna Peninsula was yesterday brought under control by the Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces yesterday completely destroyed the final and the main camp of the terrorists at Velvettiturai where many terrorists including Prabhakaran had been living. The forces were successful in taking unto custody many terrorists at this place.

Participating in two special TV programes which were telecast this afternoon by the British Television Service and Canadian TV, Mr Athulathmudali said that the Sri Lankan Government had to take this measure because the LTTE and the EROS terrorists were not willing to attend any discussions.

There was no other way than the present action that could be taken to consolidate democracy and maintain law and order in the north.

#### Delhi: Jaffna Hospitals Attacked

*BK291028 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 29 May 87*

[Text] The Sri Lankan national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, claimed today that the security forces are moving eastward after having achieved their objective in Velvettiturai. He told our Colombo correspondent Plaban Majumder that Velvettiturai operations are now over and troops are consolidating their positions in other areas of the peninsula.

The minister strongly refuted the charges that Air Force planes bombed two hospitals yesterday in the peninsula and offered to provide documentary evidence to substantiate his claim.

Reports from the northern province had said that Jaffna General Hospital, which is the largest hospital in the entire north and east of the country, suffered extensive damages in aerial action. (Mantikai) Hospital near Point Pedro was also reported to have been damaged. Reports said security forces have consolidated their hold in a small but strategic rectangular area of about 1 square km next to the Jaffna Fort army camp.

Our Colombo correspondent reports that the fighting between security forces and the militants continued unabated with the curfew being reimposed for the 4th consecutive day after a 4-hour morning break.

#### Government Guarantees Cited

*BK281555 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1531 GMT 28 May 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — The media centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH this evening that the LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran has threatened his men with death if they surrender or desert. Already some have deserted and left him.

Those who have surrendered to the security forces are being looked after and will be suitably rewarded.

The government requests would be surrendees not to be afraid of Prabhakaran's threats. The security forces will see that Prabhakaran will not be able to carry out any threats. The government stands by its commitment to pardon those who lay down arms and surrender.

Meanwhile, the curfew will be lifted for four hours in the Jaffna peninsula tomorrow (May 29) at 0600 hours (local time) and re-imposed at 1000 hours (local time). The curfew will be lifted to enable the removal of boats and the buying of provisions.

All persons having boats anchored in the sea or kept in the beaches should move their boats inland to a minimum of 800 meters from the coast. This will apply from Kovilan-Point Pedro and Point Pedro- Chempianpattu. If these boats are not removed they are liable to be destroyed.

#### Civilian Death Count Exaggerated

*BK281159 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0935 GMT 28 May 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — Amirthalingam's statement made as usual from Madras shows how divorced he is from reality. His conveniently rounded figure of 100 Tamil civilian deaths is a gross exaggeration of the facts, the Media Center intimated to LANKA PUWATH today. We invite him to come to Sri Lanka even now so that we can show him that nothing of the kind which he alleges is happening. [passage omitted]

There is no carpet bombing of Jaffna, only specific LTTE targets (?and bases). We invite Amirthalingam to come with us to see how this is done. He should refrain from flights of fancy and return to Sri Lanka immediately.

#### Diplomats Invited To Tour Jaffna

*BK291147 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 May 87*

[Text] The government has invited the international diplomatic community in Colombo for a tour of Jaffna peninsula to satisfy themselves as to the inaccuracy of Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi's

allegations that Sri Lankan Armed Forces had launched a massacre on unarmed civilians in Jaffna. The move was taken last night after reports reached Colombo that Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi had made baseless allegations against the Sri Lankan Government.

The government also refuted a barrrage of allegations by TULF head A. Amrithalingam from Madras and invited him to return to Sri Lanka to see for himself what was happening in Jaffna. He should refrain from flights of fancy and return to Sri Lanka, the statement said.

Mr Amirthalingam's statement, made as usual from Madras, shows how divorced he is from reality. It will be remembered that on the few occasions that Mr Amirthalingam visited Sri Lanka in the recent past, he avoided visiting the north of the country or seeing the people he is supposed to represent. The government forces are seeking to destroy the LTTE, which has already passed sentence of death on him. Amirthalingam can therefore return to Jaffna and continue with his democratic politics only when the LTTE is destroyed.

### Revolution Committees 'Provisionally' Release Chaplin

*LD291446 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 29 May 87*

["British Diplomat 'Provisionally' Released" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — Edward Chaplin, an official in the British interest section here, arrested for being a 'suspect', was temporarily released, Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution's Committees told IRNA here today.

The office said that Chaplin's case would be referred to the responsible officials.

### Foreign Ministry Protests Arrest of Diplomat in UK

*LD291025 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 29 May 87*

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said here today that after the illegal arrest of Tehran's political attache at Iranian Consulate General in Manchester 'Ali Qassemi two weeks ago, Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly protested to Britain and asked for London Government's explanation.

Although Qassemi was released a few hours after detention during which he was insulted by British police, however the British Government did not present any justification over the incident which the spokesman said was against diplomatic law and the Vienna Convention.

He said while the issue was still being investigated by the Iranian Foreign Ministry Qassemi was once again arrested by the Manchester police.

In this connection, he said, the Iranian Foreign Ministry and Iran's Embassy in London handed a strongly-worded note to the British Foreign Office asking for the Iranian diplomat's immediate release and explanations by the British government. He said Iran also told London it will be responsible for the consequences of this unlawful act.

According to IRNA from London, a few days before his arrest, Qassemi was attacked and beaten by Iranian counterrevolutionary groups who are freely active under the protection of the British police.

### 'Clarification' From UK Sought

*LD291323 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 29 May 87*

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — Political attache at Iranian Consulate General in Manchester Ahmad Qassemi was released today in the wake of efforts of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, according to a ministry spokesman here.

Qassemi was first arrested by British police two weeks ago without regard to his diplomatic immunity and the Vienna convention, but released a few hours later without declaration of charges against him. He was arrested and detained again on Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry had earlier handed a strongly-worded protest note to the British Foreign Office demanding the immediate release of the Iranian diplomat as well as London's declaration of the charges against him.

The spokesman said that the Iranian Foreign Ministry is highly concerned about the unwarranted arrest of the Iranian diplomat and would need an early clarification by the British Government.

### Khamene'i Delivers 'Id al-Fitr Sermon

*NC290606 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 May 87*

[Text] With the conclusion of the auspicious month of Ramadan, and one month of sincere and humble prayers by the Muslims to the Almighty, spectacular ceremonies on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr were held throughout our Islamic country with the participation of millions of compatriots today.

The propitious 'Id al-Fitr ceremony in Tehran also was attended on a massive scale by the monotheistic people of the city and was conducted by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran's Great Musalla.

In his sermon on 'Id al-Fitr in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i congratulated the people on this great Islamic feast and listed the special features of the auspicious month of Ramadan, as well as the valuable characteristics of this world feast, and expressed the wish that the prayers of the pure believers will be granted on this great Islamic feast.

He then referred to the important issues of the region, the Islamic countries, and the world, and said: They have placed the Persian Gulf on the brink of a great crisis and tension; this is not an issue that is solely our concern. It is not a problem of the Persian Gulf countries alone, but is one encompassing the region as a whole and, possibly, the world in general.

The world should regard the current problems in the Persian Gulf carefully and realistically. The mistake of world public opinion and of the world's statesmen and leaders with regard to the present Persian Gulf issue would be to create incidents and calamities that might involve everyone. The game being played by the United States and by the other superpowers is a dangerous one that cannot be dealt with routinely.

The president then cited the history of the Persian Gulf problem and the Iraqi regime's attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf during the past 3 years, the ultimate objective of which is to inflict blows on the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: During this period, 100 vessels were attacked and the Persian Gulf littoral states did not display a realistic approach from the beginning. Some of them helped the Iraqi regime and some even more, believing the war might end sooner. Of course, the Persian Gulf countries gradually withdrew and sent us a message saying: We are not willing to stand beside Iraq on this. Only Kuwait remains by the side of the aggressive Iraqi regime.

The president referred to the superpowers' assistance to the Iraqi regime and added: In general, the Western countries did not

oppose the tension in the Persian Gulf up to a point. We have repeatedly and explicitly stated our positions and said we do not want tension in the Persian Gulf. We have announced we support any effort to bring calm to the Persian Gulf. Nevertheless, Iraq continued its aggressions until developments led to the present incidents. The present situation in the Persian Gulf is dangerous and tense, not only for us, but also for the superpowers, for the Persian Gulf littoral states, and for all those who use oil and this region's wealth. And this danger stems from the fact that the superpowers have entered the Persian Gulf on the pretext of responding to Kuwait's invitation.

In continuation of his sermon on the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, our president stressed that such pressures on us will not alter our basic policies. The presence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf will only exacerbate the tension. We announced from the beginning that the Persian Gulf should be secure for everyone, and we reemphasize this today. The increased tension in the Persian Gulf is a major, imminent problem as a result of the presence of the superpowers in the region today, and those who have interfered in this now have their regrets.

Meanwhile, there are two elements acting against the interests of the entire region and of the world — Iraq and the United States. Iraq feels that there must be tension in the Persian Gulf because that regime cannot use that body of water. The United States and its president also want to show their strength following the consecutive insults they have suffered in the Persian Gulf and in the region. Reagan and his gang have no answer to give to the American people.

Referring to the MacFarlane issue, the president said: The U.S. Administration is like a wounded snake and wants to do anything possible to regain its lost respect and thus insists on being adventurous in the Persian Gulf.

The president and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Let the world public and Reagan know that this nation is determined to defend Islam, the revolution, and its independence, and will inflict blows wherever it deems necessary.

Our president said regarding Reagan's recent insult against the Iranian nation: Reagan has described us as an uncivilized nation. I do not want to retaliate and to insult the American nation. But I tell Reagan: Be careful and do not disgrace the American nation with your foolish policies.

In another part of his remarks, the president pointed out: As long as the aggressive Iraqi regime and Saddam are in power, we will continue to inflict our blows on that regime on the borders and on the battlefields. The president added: We once again state our explicit and clear view on this and believe that the war in the Persian Gulf is separate from the war on land. The land war will continue with the same objectives that we have stated. However, the war in the Persian Gulf can end. We support security in the Persian Gulf and are prepared to strive to create security there. We believe this effort can be successful. We emphasize that the Persian Gulf countries should not be affected by Iraq's tension-creating attitude. The Persian Gulf should remain secure and open for the regional countries and for the world, and oil should continue to flow. We are prepared to strive toward this and believe the basis of this effort should be the plan which the UN secretary general propounded 2 years ago. We accept that plan now as well.

In conclusion, the president thanked the people for their active and constructive participation in Jerusalem Day.

## Further Reportage on Visit of Cuban Foreign Minister

### Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

*LD281904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca, who is heading a delegation in Tehran, met with Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and the two countries' ambassadors, the Cuban foreign minister delivered greetings from the Cuban parliament to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said he viewed as positive his discussions with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on bilateral relations and cooperation in the Nonaligned Movement meeting.

Analyzing conditions in Central America, the Cuban foreign minister said: There is no doubt that the will of the people of Latin America to combat the presence of U.S. imperialism has intensified, which has made the region very critical for the United States. Referring to the latest crisis in the Persian Gulf, the Cuban minister added: In our view the presence of U.S. imperialism is a threat to the countries of the Persian Gulf region by resorting to any excuse.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani began by referring to the issues of Central America, saying: Our studies also show the threat of the establishment of U.S. imperialism's hold over Latin America. We also believe that the United States can not withstand such currents for a long period. In the first instance, nations have to be liberated from the fear bred in their hearts by colonialism.

On the foreign debts of Latin American countries, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The issue of such countries' foreign debts is very important. The payment of such levels of interest for such weak countries that find it difficult to obtain essential goods is very unjust. These countries should be helped to save themselves.

On the latest imperialist plots in the Persian Gulf the Majlis speaker said: Our policy is to remove crisis from the Persian Gulf. We would never fan the crisis. Our nation knows the United States is manipulating our neighboring countries. The Soviet Union, having leased three vessels [to Kuwait] has provided a good pretext for the United States. The Soviets should have realized that many vessels would use the U.S. flag as a result of this transaction. This Soviet action gave the United States the excuse to deceive U.S. public opinion, and on the pretext of opposing the Soviet presence, the United States thus came to the region.

In conclusion Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Soviets can tell Iraq to stop its adventures in the Persian Gulf. However, it is now

possible to say that they lit the match, and that it was America's idea. [sentence as heard]

### Holds Talks With Musavi

*LD281931 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca met with Prime Minister Musavi this morning. In a speech the prime minister referred to the situation in the region, particularly the Persian Gulf, stressing:

The slogan "Security for all or none" is strategic for us. The current efforts to ensure security against Iraqi aggression is a direct intervention in the war and we will not stand for it. The prime minister noted that the easiest way to ensure the safety of shipping is to order Saddam to stop his air raids. He added: The security of the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of the countries of the region, and any intervention by major powers will exacerbate the crisis. Everyone must realize Iran will not retreat one step from its declared principles.

Mr Musavi, in response to remarks by the Cuban foreign minister who stated that the United States would have reacted differently if Iran had attacked the *Stark*, said: The *Stark* incident and the U.S. and Iraqi positions showed where we stand and on what side Saddam's regime stands. Today it is important for the United States to maintain Saddam as an ally.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the Cuban foreign minister expressed his hope for expanding bilateral relations, and in reviewing the situation in the region, he stressed that safety of shipping in the Persian Gulf is only a pretext for imperialism.

### Received by Khamene'i

*NC290802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 May 87*

[Excerpts] Cuban Foreign Minister Mr Malmierca, who is heading a high-ranking political delegation to Tehran, was received by Mr Khamene'i yesterday afternoon and held a meeting with our president.

During this meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Mr Velayati, the political directors general of the Foreign Ministry, and the diplomatic representatives of both countries, the Cuban foreign minister conveyed a friendly message and sincere greetings from his president, Mr Fidel Castro, to Mr Khamene'i, and spoke about the two countries' joint stands on world issues. [passage omitted]

President Khamene'i expressed his thanks for the friendly message from Cuban President Mr Fidel Castro. He expressed satisfaction over the talks held between the two countries' officials, and added: We have good memories from our meeting with Mr Fidel Castro in Harare and on the common points of view that we shared with him on many world issues. The president added: We welcome the expansion of relations with Cuba. We believe further contacts and closeness between the two countries is necessary in order to develop common points of view, especially in confronting the objectives of world arrogance.

Mr Khamene'i pointed to the need for further cooperation between progressive and anti-imperialist countries, and said: The U.S. acts in Latin America are extremely dangerous. If U.S. policies in that region and in all other regions where it wants to gain a foothold are not confronted firmly, then these expansionist policies will continue.

Our president went on to condemn the aggressive U.S. policies in Latin America, especially those against the revolutionary rule in Nicaragua, as well as in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf, and said: U.S. aggressive policies exist everywhere in various forms, especially in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. We believe these policies must be confronted strongly everywhere. Mr Khamene'i pointed out: The hegemonistic presence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf is an extremely dangerous issue that we will firmly confront.

Our president added: There is no doubt that the long-lasting wish of the United States and its allies has been to confront the Islamic revolution. During the 8½ years since the revolution, the United States and its associates always have been plotting against us, but they have never succeeded. We believe that U.S. imperialism also will retreat this time with humilitation and disgrace.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i stressed: The Iraqi regime is an aggressive regime in the bosom of the West and the United States now. You can see who Iraq's mentors are.

Our president continued: Iraq is extremely weak and shaky, and be certain that that regime will not last. We will continue to defend our principles and interests and will never give in to pressures.

## Deputy Foreign Minister Sheykh ol-Eslam Visits PRC

For PRC media coverage of the visit of Sheykh ol-Eslam to the People's Republic of Chine, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 27 May *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

## Foreign Ministry Concerned Over Clashes in India

*LD290311 Tehran IRNA in English 0306 GMT 29 May 87*

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — World Muslims including the Iranian nation are following "with deep concern" the reports on the recent clashes between India's Hindu extremists and Muslims, said an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, here Thursday.

The spokesman said anti-Muslim extremist groups along with the "hidden hands of global arrogance" are behind the clashes. Because, he added, followers of various religions have co-existed peacefully in India for centuries, before the arrival of global arrogance to the Indian Subcontinent. Muslims have rendered valuable services to Indian culture and civilization, he stressed.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed hope that the Indian Government would immediately take necessary steps to prevent the extremist groups from attacking Muslims and fulfill its duty to preserving the rights of Muslims from being offended.

### Tehran To Buy Enriched Uranium From Argentina

*PM281537 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 May 87 p 20*

[Untitled report by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent]

[Text] According to the official Argentine news agency, that country will start sending enriched uranium to Iran in 1989.

Quoting official sources in that country's Foreign Ministry, the official Argentine news agency said: Argentina respects the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency based in Vienna.

The enriched uranium will be used in an experimental nuclear reactor in Iran. The reactor involved was delivered to Iran by the United States in 1966.

The Iran-Argentina deal is expected to be worth some $5 million.

### Egyptian, Jordanian Forces To Quell Iraqi Uprising

*LD281735 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 28, IRNA — The Iraqi regime refused to give medical treatment to 70 Iraqi citizens who were injured during the Iraqi bombardment of Halabjah, northeastern Iraq. This comes following the discovery of a mass grave on the outskirts of Halabjah in which 80 persons were buried alive.

The Iraqi regime has reportedly announced that it will not treat the injured unless they declare before foreign reporters that Iran has bombarded Halabjah.

Further to quell the popular uprising in Halabjah Iraqi forces have reportedly been replaced by Jordanian and Egyptian forces. Despite Ba'thists' efforts to force the people of Halabjah to open their shops, the city is in a state of standstill.

### 14 Kurdish Villages 'Levelled' by Iraqi Regime

*LD281653 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA — Iraqi mujahideen infiltrated the office of the district governor of Barsiri [name as received] town, a suburb of Zakhu in Dahuk Province, a few days ago and captured five local mercenaries along with their arms.

Announcing the above Thursday, Ramadan Headquarters reported that the governor of the northern Iraqi town of Zakhu survived an assassination bid by the Iraqi mujahideen early this week, but two of his bodyguards were killed. The report said that 50 Iraqi tribesmen, who used to cooperate with the Iraqi regime, have surrendered themselves to Kurdish strugglers.

According to another report, 14 other Kurdish populated villages around Kirkuk were levelled to the ground by the Iraqi regime, following the bitter defeat inflicted on the Ba'thist troops by Kurdish fighters.

### Navy Searches 11 Cargo Ships in Persian Gulf

*LD281547 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 28 May 87*

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA — Iranian Gunboats intercepted and searched 11 cargo ships and oil tankers passing thorugh the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday but allowed them to sail when no Iraqi-destined cargo was found aboard, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 2850th Joint Staff communique said that Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions throughout the fronts yesterday, killing or wounding an undetermined number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze several gun emplacements and observations posts of theirs.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and about 10 enemy emplacements of various weapons destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Wednesday when shelled by Iranian gendarmerie forces.

In Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts Iranian artillery fire disrupted Iraqi reinforcement activities, heavily damaging at least 15 light and heavy vehicles and one tanker of the enemy.

Iraqi engineering operations in Sardasht, northwestern fronts, including setting up of mine fields and barbed wire fences, were suppressed by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants, yesterday.

Muslim forces of Iran shelled Iraqi forces engaged in relocation activities in areas overlooking Helaleh, Sumar, Mehran and Yebis yesterday, disarraying the enemy troops and halting their operations, the communique concluded.

### Commentary Views Increased U.S. Role in Gulf

*LD281439 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1114 GMT 28 May 87*

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "Reagan Agitated More Than Ever Before"]

[Text] In continuation of Washington's expanded efforts to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran and to support the Iraqi regime, Reagan, appearing very agitated, participated yesterday in a television interview and called the Islamic Republic of Iran a barbaric and bestial country. He refrained from replying to a question as to what would Washington's response be in case a U.S. warship was hit in the Persian Gulf, and said: Iran had better worry about what the United States will do.

Moreover, simultaneous with these words by Reagan, a U.S. senator — who was a member of the congressional investigating team sent to the Persian Gulf — stressed the need for

strengthening U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region and boasting preparedness for a military engagement in this region. Unlike Reagan administration members, who were trying to insinuate that support for Kuwaiti ships had nothing to do with the problem of the war and was a measure for maintaining the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf, this senator explicitly said that support for Kuwaiti ships is practically proof that our neutral position has changed and that, therefore, it is necessary for Washington to strengthen its forces in the Persian Gulf following acceptance of the said commitment.

Moreover, the U.S. Defense Department yesterday announced that U.S. warships recently escorted a vessel carrying U.S. weapons to the shores of Bahrain and that in the future, the Pentagon intends independently to survey and decide on cases similar to this vessel which carried weapons.

In any cases, all these recent events indicate that the Reagan administration intends to pave the way for bringing to fruition conspiracies, presently being hatched in forums like the UN Security Council, by resorting to creating tensions in the Persian Gulf and bringing pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is interesting to note that along with an increase in threats by the great satan and preparations by U.S. forces to interfere in the region — in reponse to the recent action by the Soviet Government -- the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently stressed the need to end the war as speedily as possible. It also announced its opposition to the increase and strengthening of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region. In the concluding part of its announcement it says: In the USSR's view, under present conditions, renewed international cooperation and common efforts, above everything else, within the framework of the United Nations and on the basis of the charter of this international organization, gains great importance for ending the Iran-Iraq war as soon as possible.

In any case, this is not the first time that world powers, through conspiracies like these, are uniting and are trying to force the Islamic Revolution of Iran to surrender and compromise, and to impose their unjust demands on this selfless and resisting nation by resorting to military force. Certainly in the future, too, as long as this committed and rising nation remains faithful to the aspirations of its revolution, these conspiracies will again be repeated with complexities deeper than ever.

But with a little attention to the reasons for the exodus of the multinational forces from the Lebanon — at whose head were the U.S. and French Marines — the Reagan administration will practically understand that a nation which takes pride in martyrdom, not only will not feel the slightest anxiety over an engagement with U.S. warships, but will turn confrontation with the principal enemy of the world oppressed and Muslim nations into a glorious epic and create new excitement and liveliness in the region. In case such conditions emerge, we will see in practice which side will be worried and frightened.

Although the experiences of Vietnam, Lebanon, and Iran have in practice clarified the answer to this question, we are ready to repeat history once more for barbaric people who have made interference in the domestic affairs of countries and various parts of the world part of their undisputed right.

## Paper Lambastes 'Foolish U.S. 'Adventurism'

*LD281828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 28 May 87*

[From the press review]

[Text] The current week is particularly important because it coincides with the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr. After a month of sincere fasting, the world of Islam is welcoming this auspicious 'Id. During this blessed month, the Muslims of the world had the honor of sharing a divine banquet and enjoyed those great divine gifts that God grants to the believers, the pious and the sincere salves of his court. In the first part of its political commentary the daily *Jomhuri-ye Eslami*, discussed this issue, saying:

During the holy month of Ramadan, the world of Islam witnessed some amazing events which embarassed the enemies of Islam. With shame the enemies of Islam realized that the global movement of Islam has the support of a mighty power; that is, the hand of God, which is more powerful than all others. Global arrogance, both East and West, faced abjectness and shame in this holy month and in the first phase of their saber-rattling in the Persian Gulf received some deadly blows that they shall certainly never forget.

According to their criteria, Eastern blasphemy and Western capitalism do not believe in anything such as divine will, the power of faith and spirituality, and miracles. They evaluate everything according to their tangible sinister materialistic criteria. However, now they should accept that when God decides to disgrace someone, the more powerful he is, the more disgraced he will become. Even if all worldly forces unite to help him, they are incapable of achieving anything except adding to his misery and disgrace.

This is the summary of the events and incidents which have befallen the superpowers and their regional mercenaries. Whether global arrogance likes it or not, it must concede its helplessness and despondency in the face of global movement of Islam and the powerful wave of the Islamic revival in the contemporary world. Global arrogance should therefore abandon further impudence and obstinacy and surrender to justice.

The severe and deadly blow that Washington received when its frigate *Stark* was destroyed [as heard] taught the United States that it should not enter the Persian Gulf alone. It even appears that the presence of the two superpowers is not sufficient. Rather, all the powers, on which global arrogance is counting, should arrive on the scene, perhaps to be able to achieve something. [sentence as heard] However, the logical reaction of Washington's allies to Reagan's adventurist proposals demonstrate well that Japan and Europe fully understand the depth of the tragedy which awaits them.

Germany was the first state to reject Reagan's proposal openly and clearly. Japan has announced that it will only contribute toward the dispatch of a force to the Persian Gulf and will go no further. Italy has now officially announced that it hopes that no formal proposal will be forwarded to it because from the start Italy has been against any such foolish U.S. adventurism in the Gulf. Nevertheless, Washington, by dispatching the U.S. secre-

tary of defense to the NATO meeting persists in asking its European allies to agree with Reagan's proposal to create tension in the Persian Gulf.

NATO Secretary General Carrington's reply to the proposal is very interesting and counts as a deadly political blow to Reagan's impudent proposal and he officially declared that organization is not responsible for events that occur outside the protective sphere of NATO. He declared that NATO will continue to refrain from participating in such adventurism.

The truth is that the United States has placed itself in a precarious [enfe'ali] position in the Persian Gulf and is terrified of its solitary presence in that region. This fear and anxiety can be clearly sensed from the pronouncements and remarks of the Congressional officials and even of the officials of Reagan's administration. Washington believes it should not pay the heavy penalty of its adventurism alone and each U.S. ally should do its fair share. If the Persian Gulf is to take its toll in lives from interfering forces, why should only U.S. military men lose their lives in the midst of all this?

It is exactly for this very reason that the United States is searching for an accomplice, and it is willing to drag into the Persian Gulf the interfering forces of NATO armed forces and expose them to the heavy fire of Islam's forces and the self-sacrificing forces of the world Islamic movement in the whole region. Washington and its allies know that if they meddle [shararat] in the Persian Gulf they will not only receive a response in the Persian Gulf itself but also in the whole region. They know they should expect to face the deadly and avenging blows of selfless Muslims in every place imaginable. Washington and its allies know that this is not mere talk, and they are certain they will receive blows that will make them regret their mischief, in the very first hours and in any likely place.

Caspar Weinberger travelled to Europe with a thousand hopes, and he never expected such a discouraging reply from Europe. More than any other person, he now feels U.S. leadership in the Western world is being questioned and no country is willing to invest in U.S. projects that are doomed to failure or to despatch troops to their deaths. If the United States was putting forward such a proposal after achieving a victory in the Persian Gulf, perhaps some people would then be tempted to cooperate with Reagan, but now, in the aftermath of defeat, empty-handedness, and abjectness, the United States wants its allies to invest in a vain and ill-fated project.

The reality is that since the McFarlane disgrace was exposed and Islamic Iran informed the world public of certain truths, the U.S. hawks [jenah-e neazmi-gari] and Reagan's adventurist policies have consistently been on the verge of collapse and complete degeneration. One cannot doubt the great truth that Reagan and his faction will not raise their heads again and that they will be forced to end this presidential term despondently and without achieving anything.

While Reagan and his aides seek to rehabilitate the lost U.S. reputation and if they want to resolve everything by resorting to force and adventurism, Washington's European allies are thinking of the future and envision the day which is close at hand. They are thinking of the day of Saddam's fall and of a region without Saddam. They are also thinking of their own interests, and they are not willing to let their interests be considered in the same light as Washingtons. This is a logical and realistic position.

If the White House spokesman is talking of a renwed general reapprisal of U.S. strategy regarding the Persian Gulf in the wake of current events in the region, it is because Reagan and his advisers are also gradually beginning to feel that by continuing this dangerous course, they can only burn the bridges behind them.

Europe is asking itself this question: In circumstances where the United States is not showing steadfastness and stability in the implementation of its policy, then what justification is there for blindly following Washington's instructions? This is a question to which even the U.S. secretary of defense could not give a convincing answer during the NATO sessions.